

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00957 250313Z  
ACTION INSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W  
-----033036 250317Z /75

P 242332Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6452  
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULS POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, CA  
SUBJECT: SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF FEDERAL-QUEBEC  
IMMIGRATION AGREEMENT

1. AFTER A YEAR OF NEGOTIATIONS, FEDERAL AND QUEBEC GOVERNMENTS FEBRUARY 20 SIGNED AGREEMENT GIVING QUEBEC MUCH GREATER POWER IN SELECTION OF IMMIGRANTS. IN ESSENCE, THE AGREEMENT ALLOWS QUEBEC TO UTILIZE OWN POINT SYSTEM PARALLEL TO FEDERAL STANDARDS. SHOULD A PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRANT NOT MEASURE UP TO FEDERAL STANDARD BUT QUALIFY UNDER QUEBEC'S, LATTER WILL PREVAIL EXCEPT IN CASES INVOLVING NATIONAL SECURITY OR HEALTH. SIMILARLY, AN IMMIGRANT MIGHT FAIL THE QUEBEC TEST BUT QUALIFY UNDER FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS AND BE ADMITTED OUTSIDE OF QUEBEC. SUBSEQUENT TO ADMISSION, IMMIGRANT WILL BE FREE TO MOVE THROUGHOUT CANADA.

2. QUEBEC POINT SYSTEM HAS YET TO BE DESCRIBED PUBLICLY BUT IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT FRENCH LANGUAGE AND ABILITY TO ASSIMILATE IN FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY  
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WILL LOOM LARGE.

3. COMMENT: IMMIGRATION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY UNDER BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT (BNA) BUT WITH OVER-RIDE IN FAVOR OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN CASE OF CONFLICT. IT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE PROMINENT STICKING POINTS IN QUEBEC-OTTAWA RELATIONSHIP FOR YEARS IN VIEW OF FRENCH

CANADIAN FEARS OF BEING OVERWHELMED LINGUISTICALLY BY ANGLOPHONES, IN PART THROUGH IMMIGRATION. A FRENCH CANADIAN HAND ON THE IMMIGRANT TAP WILL OBVIOUSLY BE AN IMPORTANT SAFEGUARD. NEW AGREEMENT IS, THUS, SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION OF POWER BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. EVEN QUEBEC IMMIGRATION MINISTER COUTURE REPORTEDLY HAILED "SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION...(OF) OUR FEDERAL FRIENDS," WHILE NOTING THAT ONLY INDEPENDENCE COULD GIVE QUEBEC FULL IMMIGRATION POWERS.

4. AGREEMENT WAS APPARENTLY NEGOTIATED ON BEHALF OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS OFFICE (FPRO). AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT OFFICE PUT IT TO EMBOFF, THE AGREEMENT IS A POSITIVE DEMONSTRATION OF THE FLEXIBILITY POSSIBLE WITHOUT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OR EVEN LEGISLATION. HE GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HIS OFFICE IS UNSURE HOW FAR QUEBEC GOVERNMENT WILL BE WILLING TO GO DOWN THIS ROAD. HE MENTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT FPRO HAD JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM QUEBEC COMMUNICATIONS MIN O'NEILL INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS COMMUNICATIONS QUESTIONS--ANOTHER STICKING POINT IN FEDERAL-QUEBEC RELATIONSHIP.  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, INDEPENDENCE, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3487246  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF FEDERAL-QUEBEC IMMIGRATION AGREEMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, CA, QUEBEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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